THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, this subject has been sprung upon me by surprise. So far as I am aware, if during the pendency of a dispute, the management or labour take any action, the proper course is to move the Industrial Tribunal. If the hon. Member had brought this fact to my notice I would have certainly made some enquiries, but the hon. Member has not done so."

MR. SPEAKER :—" May I know when the strike took place? "

* SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" On 15th November 1952, the manager dismissed three workers from the factory with 8 to 14 years of servcie. He again dismissed another worker on the 21st November. The next day, 22nd November, he dismissed 35 women workers and 30 boys. The satyagraha started on the 19th November and the hunger strike from the 24th November."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, my submission is that, however much we may sympathize with the labourers, there are other methods which they must exhaust before they can come to this House, which they have not done."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have heard enough from both sides and I am going to give my considered ruling straightway. A hunger strike or a fast can never become the subject matter of an adjournment motion, nor are they fit subjects for adjournment motions. If the workers go on a hunger strike, they do so voluntarily. The Government do not ask them to go on a hunger strike.

" There is also another motion from my hon. Friend, Sri Vavilala Gopalakrishnaiah, about the fast undertaken by Sri Potti Sriramulu, on which also I am going to give my ruling now.

Apart from this, the motion before the House now is—

'This Assembly hereby stands adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the failure of the Government to take effective and urgent steps to reinstate the illegally retrenched 69 workers from the Raja Rajeswari Weaving Mills, Azhikhode, Baliapatam, North Malabar, resulting in mass hunger strike in front of the factory causing alarm to the public.'

" If the facts are as stated in the motion, there are other ways by which these retrenched workers can be reinstated. The Government have no responsibility in the matter. I therefore rule the motion out of order."

## (2) SRI POTTI SRIRAMULU'S FAST ON THE ANDHRA PROVINCE ISSUE.

MR. SPEAKER :—" Sri Vavilala Gopalakrishnaiah has given notice that,

'This House do stand adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the serious situation arising out of the 38 days' fast of Sri Potti Sriramulu on the Andhra Province issue, who is in a serious condition and the Government's attitude upon it.'

" I had advised him privately that it was not a proper subject to be brought as an adjournment motion and, in spite of that, he

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has asked me to read his motion and give my ruling. In future whenever I advise an hon. Member in my chamber that a particular subject is not a proper one, I would like him to take it as my view in the matter."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, may I make a submission? There are two points which arise out of what you have said. The first thing is in regard to taking your advice in the chamber. Sir, all members are willing to take your advice and to meet you as often as possible in your chamber. But, the real difficulty is that when questions are brought to your notice in the chamber and when you give your advice or ruling in the chamber itself, the other members will be deprived of the opportunity of knowing what it was that was moved and what was ruled out and, therefore, it would not be a guidance to them. This is the reason for myself making a request to you so that we may be able to regulate our motions for adjournment.

" The second point is that even while giving your ruling on the previous motion, you have already indicated your mind that you are going to rule this motion also out of order. It puts us at a very disadvantage because we could not say anything more. Apart from this, I must submit in all seriousness that hunger-strikes are not matters . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" It is not a hunger-strike but a fast."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, this fast undertaken by Sri Potti Sriramulu is not a light matter. It is in connection with . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" This House is not responsible for it nor are the Government responsible for it in any way."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, I am going to submit that this Government are responsible for the situation leading to the fast and if you are pleased to give me only two or three minutes' time I shall try to satisfy you.

" This question has been raised for many years. What happened in 1949 was . . . (Interruption.) I would request the Hon. Ministers also to pay some attention. In 1949, when the Constitution was being finally shaped, the question came to a head."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" Sir, on a point of order, I thought you had already given a ruling on this subject."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have given my ruling on the hunger-strike in the Raja Rajeswara Weaving Mills, Azhikode. The question now is in regard to the fast undertaken by Sri Potti Sriramulu."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" I am going to focus attention on and concentrate on the point how this Government are responsible and how the failure of this Government is the reason for this fast. When this question came up in 1949, even before the promulgation of the Constitution, those who were in authority or had the

authority to make the Constitution said that if there was some amount of agreement in the State of Madras, the Andhra Province would be included in the Constitution. The Andhra Provincial Congress Committee consisting of several shades of opinion passed a resolution and, on the basis of this resolution, the Central Government directed and the Madras Government appointed a Partition Committee. The Central Government in passing orders on the Report of the Partition Committee said that, although the Committee was appointed in pursuance of the general agreement arrived at, as there were certain differences mentioned in the Report certain steps had to be taken before this question could be mooted again."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The Central Government are responsible for this and not the Government of Madras."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" No, Sir. It devolved upon this Government to take those steps."

RAJA MUTHIA CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD :—" Sir, on a point of order, I would like you to tell us whether you are allowing a discussion on this subject."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have given the hon. Member two minutes' time."

RAJA MUTHIA CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD :—" From the way in which the hon. Member is dealing with it, we would like to have an opportunity to reply to the hon. Member."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, I do not like to waste my time in replying to my hon. Friend. Sir, when the Central Government passed orders, it was the duty of this Government to have taken those steps in relation to the division of assets or of projects and other points raised in the Order passed by the Central Government. But, since the date of this Order, this Government have not taken any steps. It has therefore worsened the situation and has led several people to take several actions and, I am sure, this fast is also one of the consequences of the failure of this Government to follow up the directions given by the Central Government in their Order of 1950, and that is how, Sir, this Government are responsible."

11-50 a.m. * THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Mr. Speaker Sir, will you allow me to say a word. The point raised is whether we should adjourn the business of the House now because a certain gentleman is observing a fast. Let us not involve ourselves, on this point, in the merits of the partition or whatever else it may be called. The question, now, is whether the fasting should be taken notice of by the House and we should adjourn. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition was good enough to point out some of the facts in the history of this matter. He led up to a point that the Central Government asked for an agreement on the subject before anything further could be done. He interpreted it as if it

had been a duty laid on this Government to compel or persuade other people to agree. There, I think he is wrong in his interpretation."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" I never said so."

* THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" If he did not say so, there is no argument in it. The Central Government said that there should be agreement up to a point before they could take up the question. That agreement essentially dealt with agreement of persons concerned, organizations concerned and the like and not the Government. In fact the Government can do very little in regard to this agreement. Government will be always misunderstood if they intervene in this matter. It would be better, therefore, if this agreement could be arrived at by organizations, public associations, leading citizens and the like and that is what is going on. As I interpret the fast, it is really a fast so that people should come to an agreement. It has nothing to do with the Government."

(At this stage, Sri T. Viswanatham stood up.)

MR. SPEAKER :—" I am not going to allow any hon. Member to speak further on this matter."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, the hon. Member who gave notice of the adjournment motion may be allowed to speak."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have given time to the hon. Member who gave notice of the adjournment motion and he has not stood up. The motion before the House is that :

'This House do stand adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the serious situation arising out of the 38 days' fast of Sri Potti Sriramulu on Andhra Province issue, who is in a serious condition and Government's attitude upon it.'

I do not know how the Government are responsible for this. I am not convinced by the arguments of the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, shall I explain?

MR. SPEAKER :—" It is not necessary at all. I am not speaking lightly. Let not the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition misunderstand me. On *Krithigai* and *Amavasya* days I also fast. My friend, just sitting opposite to me, Sri P. T. Rajan also fasts on *Krithigai* days. After all, it is a voluntary fast. We do it for religious purposes. Here Government are not responsible. If Andhra Province is necessary, there are other ways. The Central Government are responsible for it and not our State Government. I rule the adjournment motion out of order."

## III.—FOOD AND FAMINE CONDITIONS IN THE STATE—REQUEST FOR A DEBATE ON.

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Last time, Mr. Speaker Sir, I requested the Hon. the Leader of the House to allot two days for a discussion of the situation in the State with regard to food